

University of Alaska Southeast

The Whalesong

Volume 22, Issue 9

March 6, 2001

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Lack of response ticks off editor p. 4

Confessions of a first-time reporter p. 5

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Get your gear and get involved

Summer J. Dorr Murray
Whalesong staff

If you're tired of lounging on the couch channel surfing on Saturdays, Dave Mason and Brechelle Ware have some alternatives for you. As coordinators of the Student Government-sponsored Outdoor Recreation Program, Mason and Ware can offer UAS students numerous activities that take advantage of the natural beauty that surrounds them, such as day-long glacier hikes, overnight campouts, and kayaking and mountain biking come spring.

We live in Alaska - the "great outdoors." Why laze about on weekends doing nothing but hitting the snooze on the alarm and putting off taking a shower? Instead, ponder these suggestions: a refreshing hike or get your gear together and go camping!

The Outdoor Recreation Program's philosophy and purpose is to get students active and

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Sponsored by UAS Student Activities

Anthropology Professor from down South really an Alaskan at Heart

Wilson Walz
Whalesong staff

Dr. Daniel Monteith, former college track star and current Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast, is a strong addition to the UAS faculty. Born and raised in Seattle, studying school through the Washington. After track at and bachelor's degree the University of college he worked the Bristol Bay undergraduate he obtained an master's degree in UC as well. He Michigan State Associate Anthropology and master's and a anthropology. He on the Native Southeast Alaska, more specifically on the Tongass Tlingets. His dissertation was basically an ethno-history of the Tongass tribe.

Monteith says attending UC for undergraduate work was very strong educationally because, unlike a lot of larger universities, the

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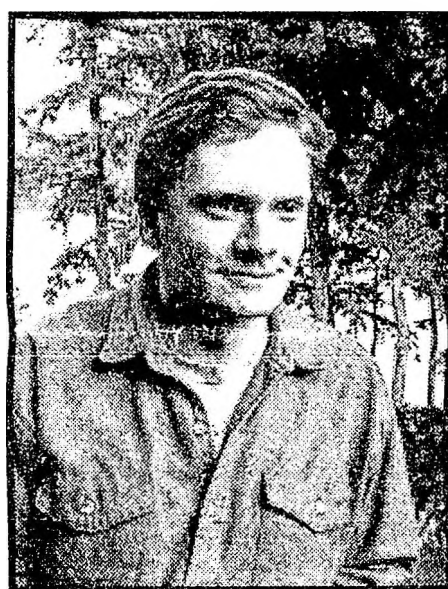


Photo by Scott Foster
UAS anthropology professor
Dr. Monteith spends his free
time exploring caves

Monteith began anthropology in high University of high school, he ran received his in anthropology from Chicago. During on fishing tender in area. After his work was completed, interdisciplinary Social Science from then worked at University as an Professor of received a second Ph.D. in did his doctoral thesis Americans of

Mardi Gras has history of violent incidents and 2001 was no exception

Ed Timms and Carolyn Barta
Knight Ridder Tribune

DALLAS - It's not a big secret: When lots of people gather and start drinking, trouble's always a possibility. Add to that the tradition of Mardi Gras, historically one last licentious blowout before Lent, and the odds are even higher.

Still, far from the Mardi Gras epicenter of New Orleans, a growing number of communities promote or endure celebrations of "Fat Tuesday." It's an opportunity to party, and money talks.

But this year, the "morning after" was nothing to brag about.

More than 70 people were injured Tuesday, two seriously, one fatally beaten to death, in Seattle, where Mardi Gras revelry degenerated into vandalism and violence. In Philadelphia, about 40 people were injured as festivities got out of hand. One person was stabbed as a crowd rioted in Fresno, Calif., and police in Austin, Texas, canceled a Mardi Gras Day parade after weekend violence injured five people and resulted

in more than 50 arrests.

In New Orleans? A boisterous but relatively uneventful celebration. One explanation is that the local police have had lots of practice.

"In New Orleans, which in the United States has the longest tradition, it is very clear what the rules are," said Dr. Cynthia Gentry, a sociology professor at Trinity University in San Antonio and a former resident of the "Big Easy."

For example, she said, revelers in New Orleans are "free to be intoxicated" and "free to be scantily dressed," with no repercussions.

"At the same time, people know that you do not bother the police unnecessarily, because they've been working for weeks," she said. "You don't carry glass in the street. You do not bother another person. These rules are very clear and they're enforced formally and informally."

In some communities, Mardi Gras festivities are relatively new. Austin and Philadelphia, for example, have celebrated Mardi Gras for

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Bring out the troops, join the effort, support the University

Ann Ringstad
UA Director of Government Relations

The House Finance Committee is taking public testimony on the fiscal year 2002 operating budget on Mar. 8 and 9 at 1:30 p.m. This is the perfect time (and only chance in the House) to let your legislators know that you want them to fully support the University's request for 16.9 million dollars. Your legislators need to know from you that funding the University at the level requested is necessary towards building a high quality postsecondary system that is unified across the state, that responds quickly to the needs of the people, that provides high quality academic programs, that is accessible to all Alaskans, and that is responsive to the state's needs. Send the message that by fully funding the University, the state will be assured a secure economic future.

Where the University stands today:

The House Finance Subcommittee on the University Budget closed out yesterday afternoon, giving the University an increase of \$9,353,100. This does not add up to the \$16.9 million that the Board of Regents has requested.

In addition, the House Finance Committee is using a "base budget" number of \$186,866.9 versus what the University is considering its base to be at: \$188,866.9, due to usage of one-time funds last year to fill the state's operating budget gap. That means that the gap between what the University is requesting and what the House Finance Committee is allocating is \$9,490,800!

What does this mean?

UA GF/ASTF FY01 Base Budget \$188,866.9
FY02 UA Increment Request \$ 16,853.9
Total UA Operating Request FY02 \$205,720.8
UA FY02 Operating Budget as of 2/26/01: House Finance Committee GF/ASTF Base \$186,866.9
HFC Increase 9,363.1
Total UA FY02 Operating per HFC \$196,230.0
Difference between UA and HFC #'s \$ 9,490.8
Teleconference networks are set up around the state for the public to testify. The House Finance Committee will be listening to testimony starting at 1:30 p.m. on Mar. 8 and again

starting at 1:30 p.m. on Mar. 9.

Rep. Eldon Mulder, co-chair of the House Finance Committee, recently informed his committee members that the budget process is not over at the subcommittee level and that there was hope that "at the end of the day, the legislature may have found other means to fill the gaps in the budget." University advocates must convince the legislators that they must find the means.

If you can't participate in the teleconference (or make it to the Capitol), send the House Finance Committee members a direct email or a phone call to their office. For links and more information, see: (toll-free numbers) <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/infodocs/tollfree.pdf> or (email address links) <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/house/house.htm>.

The House Finance Committee members are:

Rep. Eldon Mulder, (R) Anchorage, Co-Chair, Rep. Bill Williams, (R) Saxman, Co-Chair, Rep. Con Bunde, (R) Anchorage, Vice-Chair, Rep. Jim Whitaker, (R) Fairbanks, Rep. John Davies, (D) Fairbanks, Rep. John Harris, (R) Valdez, Rep. Richard Foster, (D) Nome, Rep. Ken Lancaster, (R) Kenai, Rep. Eric Croft (D) Anchorage, Rep. Carl Moses (D) Unalaska, Rep. Bill Hudson (R) Juneau

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enjoy the crisp air outdoors! "The idea is to get university students outside; to provide the students with more outdoor activities," explains Dave Mason. "To get a small group of students bonding with each other and they're surroundings."

The program is up and running for the first time since its conception during the '99 school year. So far the Outdoor Recreation Program has taken groups hiking around Herbert and East glacier for 3- to 5-hour hikes. Poor college students often don't want to put up the cash for short weekend adventures (like fees for renting a cabin and transportation). Thus the USUAS-JC-sponsored Outdoor Recreation Program offers weekly free ventures. You name it and they're open to it. In fact, the program is interested in suggestions to increase involvement.

The setup is like this: Monday and Tuesday Mason and Ware decide where that week's trip is going to be and then post the flyers to let you all know what's up. Grab your gear and get involved.

Email suggestions to jjorc@uas.alaska.edu or get in touch with Dave Mason and Brechelle Ware for details of upcoming ventures.

UAS Dean of Students Bruce Gifford resigns

Scott Foster
UAS Public Relations

Dean of Students Bruce Gifford has submitted his resignation after more than 18 years at the University of Alaska Southeast. He has accepted a position as vice president of Student Services at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene and will begin June 1.

"It's going to be very tough to leave," Gifford said. "This has been our home. This is where our friends are. But, after nearly two decades in Southeast, both Diana and I are looking for a change, and for a little dryer climate."

Chancellor John Pugh said, "Bruce has contributed a great deal to the growth and development of UAS. He will be very difficult to replace." A search for a Dean of Student Services and Enrollment Management is beginning. The dean is responsible for integrating student service functions with academic programs and for directing the university's enrollment management plan.

"The chancellor has everything at UAS going in the right direction," Gifford said. "I feel good having had a hand in that. In addition, the UAS Student Services staff is excellent, experienced and committed. I know they will continue their outstanding service to students and the university."

Gifford started at UAS in 1982 as director of student services on the Ketchikan campus and moved to the Juneau campus in 1988 as part of restructuring.

Hey Grad... Don't Forget!
Order your graduation items by March 9th at
The UAS Bookstore
SEE DISPLAY IN MOURANT CAFETERIA.
Bookstore hours: **Monday-Friday, 8p.m-5p.m.**
Phone: **465-6401**

Junior portfolio deadline approaching fast

Alexis Easley
UAS Director of Writing Assessment

Language Arts Junior Portfolio Deadlines Spring Semester 2001

Portfolio due: Tuesday, March 27, 5:00 p.m.

Impromptu essays will be proctored in the Learning Center on Monday, March 26, 1:00-2:30 p.m.; Tuesday, March 27 10:00-11:30 a.m.; or by arrangement.

For more information, contact Dr. Alexis Easley, Director of Writing Assessment, 465-6415, alexis.easley@uas.alaska.edu

Dispute over oil drilling in Arctic begins between Democrats, Bush

Michael Kilian
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON - Leading congressional Democrats, their Republican allies and a coalition of national environmental groups on Wednesday fired the opening salvos of a major fight to stop President Bush's plan to drill for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

It was the first major breach of the peace between Bush and the Democratic opposition since the president took office in January.

Seizing upon the Alaska issue as a battleground over what they termed the president's pro-oil, anti-environment policies, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., and others vowed to fight Bush's oil-drilling plan with a Senate filibuster and "all other available legislative weapons."

Lieberman, Markey and Johnson also introduced legislation in Congress to make the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge off-limits to oil exploration and production in perpetuity.

The measure already has 120 co-sponsors in the House and 23 in the Senate, Markey said.

Their move counters the introduction Monday of a Republican bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., Senate Energy and



Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, and others that would open the Alaskan refuge to oil production and provide

tax incentives for oil companies aimed at lowering imports of foreign oil from 56 percent to 50 percent of total consumption by 2010.

"Advocates of drilling offer the refuge as a quick fix for our country's energy woes and a long-term solution to our debilitating dependence on foreign oil," Lieberman said at a rally outside the Capitol. "It is neither. The only thing we know for certain about drilling in the refuge, as a result of years of analysis and experience, is that it would measurably and irreversibly damage one of the last preserves of its kind in the world. To drill for oil in the Arctic refuge is like chopping down the California redwoods for firewood, or capping Old Faithful for geothermal power."

"Special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are a part of our natural and our national heritage," said Clinton. "The Arctic refuge is part of what makes our country so unique, so beautiful and so precious. It deserves protection, not exploitation."

Lieberman and the coalition called for developing a new energy policy that relies on increased efficiency, conservation, renewable fuels and better automobile gas mileage, calling it an outrage to ruin the Alaskan wilderness when the country is manufacturing sport utility vehicles that get only 10 miles to the gallon.

They cited a report from the U.S. Geological Survey that said the Arctic refuge would produce no more fuel than could be made available by increasing the gas mileage of American motor vehicles by just 3 miles a gallon.

"Drilling in the (refuge) is not the answer," said Johnson, one of several Republicans opposed to the Bush plan. "There are far better alternatives that will help us decrease our dependency on foreign oil and address our energy needs in the long run." Bush, a former oil company executive, pledged during the presidential campaign to open sections of protected Alaskan wilderness to oil drilling, citing as reasons for immediate action American dependence on foreign oil and power shortages such as those in

California.

He and Interior Secretary Gail Norton, a former lawyer for mining and energy companies, restated that objective after the election.

"I campaigned hard on the notion of having environmentally sensitive exploration at ANWR and I think we can do so," Bush said.

In his budget message Tuesday, the president said, "We can produce more energy at home while protecting our environment, and we must."

Bush also announced the formation of a task force to create a new national energy policy that is to be headed by Vice President Dick Cheney, a former oil services company executive.

"American dependence on foreign oil threatens our national security and our freedom, and we need to recognize that," Lott said.

"We are facing high energy costs that are affecting every American family," said Murkowski. "Times like these call for real solutions, not partisanship."

The Sierra Club, joining other environmental and conservation groups in support of the Lieberman and Markey-Johnson measures, noted that the 95 percent of Alaska's land area lying outside the wildlife refuge is already open to oil drilling and production.

"But the coastal plain of the Arctic refuge is square in the sights of the oil companies and anti-environmental members of Congress," said Melinda Pierce, the Sierra Club's Washington representative.

She cited a recent Associated Poll that found 53 percent of U.S. voters oppose drilling in the refuge and only 33 percent support it.

Established by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1960 and enlarged substantially in the Carter administration, the Arctic refuge occupies about 20 million acres of northeast Alaska, of which about 1.5 million acres have been targeted for oil exploration.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuge is home to more than 160 bird species, 36 kinds of land mammals, nine marine mammal species and 36 types of fish.

Mardi Gras continued from page 1

two years. "Every Chamber of Commerce in every city, all the movers and shakers . . . are always looking for opportunities to increase the number of people coming to their cities," said Dr. Charles Friel, a criminal justice professor at Sam Houston State University. "So somebody says, 'Mardi Gras, that brings a lot of people in.'"

Philadelphia police Sgt. Roland Lee said a local nightclub was the driving force behind the Mardi Gras celebration there. Some partygoers, he said, had been drinking all day. Philadelphia City Council member Frank DiCicco said businesses that were "pumping people full of booze from 7 a.m. in the morning should be held accountable. We want to see if we can hold the businesses responsible for the destruction that took place," he said, adding that owners may be asked to post a bond in the future to pay for city services and damage. DiCicco said most of the 40,000 to 50,000 revelers who partied on Philadelphia's South Street were young, many under 21. With that large a crowd, he said, there were not enough liquor control agents "to keep a close eye on people who are intoxicated, and underage people being served."

Business owners in Austin also came up with the idea of having a Mardi Gras celebration. Austin Assistant Police Chief Rick Coy said Wednesday that officers there had some problems with the crowd that celebrated Mardi Gras last year, but problems escalated this year. Coy said that officers had been monitoring the partying and making arrests earlier, but that shortly after 2 a.m. Sunday "the crowd turned on the

officers and it just bloomed immediately into a serious situation with bricks and bottles and chunks of concrete being thrown."

He said Austin's Sixth Street area also has large crowds on Halloween and New Year's Eve, but Mardi Gras seemed to attract "a much younger, raucous crowd." Police officials will be reviewing what happened and trying to develop ways to avoid serious problems next year, he said.

Fresno Police Lt. John Fries said that the violence in Fresno's Tower District, a concentration of restaurants and nightclubs, mainly involved intoxicated teen-agers, "young people drunk and under the influence of drugs." He added that the city still supports the Mardi Gras celebration, now in its eighth year, and will take steps to prevent a repeat of this year's violence.

Mardi Gras is not the only event that attracts large crowds with a tendency to get rowdy. Dr. Richard Hawkins, professor of sociology at Southern Methodist University, likened the Mardi Gras-gone-bad celebrations to spring break activities or Super Bowl parades where crowd psychology takes over. "Some people see it as a situation for acceptable deviance," he said. It's an opportunity to take a "moral holiday."

Unfortunately, Friel said, things sometimes get out of hand. "Is it a little bit of a black eye. . . that we have festivals like this where there's a pretty good probability that people are going to get out of control? Yes, of course it is," he said. "And is it a little embarrassing to the people who live there? Of course. Is the economic tradeoff worth it? Obviously, or the beneficiaries would say we don't want to have it anymore."

EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

Editor-in-Chief
Seneca Theno

Advertising Manager
M.J. Booth

Production Manager
Amelia Jenkins

Staff Writers
Tyler Bishop
Wilson Walz
Summer J. Dorr Murray
Janeen Russell

Adviser
Kirk McAllister

Technical Consultant
Dave Kleinpeter

Printing
Golden North Printers

Whalesong Artwork
John Attebury
Sarah Asper-Smith



E-mail: jyw@uas.alaska.edu
Online Edition: Coming Soon!
Mail: The Whalesong
11120 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801
Newsroom: 102 Mourt Bldg.
Phone: (907) 465-6434
Fax: (907) 465-6399

The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, The Whalesong, is a free bi-weekly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of The Whalesong values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. The Whalesong editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Are you really saying anything at all?

Seneca Theno

It is common knowledge that people are very opinionated. They love to ramble on and on about anything, telling friends and strangers exactly what they think about this issue and that issue, how the government should handle this, what the police should do about that, what they think about what you just said. And yet the Whalesong can hardly get a response from any one of its hundreds of readers. Are the topics that unrelated to life? I don't really think so. We talk about performances in the community, events and changes happening on campus, new technology and construction, faculty, staff, and students, national news and issues related to student-life, events at other campuses, and of course whatever topic suits the editor's fancy that week. We change our logo, our masthead, our layout, our look. We distribute on campus, in Lemon Creek, downtown, Douglas, and sometimes at Housing doorsteps. And still we don't hear a thing.

One thing that strikes me as very interesting, given the above-described situation, is the one topic that got the most response from readers: the Word of Mouth editorial. When I proclaimed that your unsubstantiated and unaccounted-for anonymous comments published by the Juneau Empire were lacking in professionalism and integrity, and merely allowed for whiny people to contribute more useless noise to the world, man were you pissed. You told me I had no clue what I was

talking about, that I apparently completely missed the point of Word of Mouth's contribution to the neighborhood, that I disregarded the importance of feeling free to communicate thoughts without repercussions, and you told me anonymously. How righteous of you.

Anyway, when you felt your freedom of expression was threatened, you responded en masse. And then the next issue came out, and no one was ridiculing your sense of free speech anymore; suddenly you didn't have anything to say. Is it really that absolutely nothing that comes out of the paper or that happens around you inspires you to talk about it, or is it merely that you don't want to put your name to anything you really think?

I wonder, if the Whalesong opened its phone lines and invited readers to call in anonymously and say whatever was on their mind, would there suddenly be a wave of outspoken, opinionated, and unaccountable contributors?

I would like to express my sincere thanks and respect to those few individuals who do write, who are inspired by something and stand up to say loud and clear what they think, and then sign their name to it.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Although I was excited to read the love notes in the Valentine's Day edition of the Whalesong, I was appalled when I read the poem "R.R." had written, detailing intimate acts of his/her sex life with "Claytius." Such a poem is entirely inappropriate for this publication, which is read by the UAS student body, including many high school and even a few middle school students. While I support free

speech, I'd like to think that the Whalesong is of a higher quality than has recently been proven otherwise. R.R.'s poem was lewd and graphic and probably had been purposely written to offend readers. The editor, Seneca Theno, should have practiced censorship, or at the very least, not placed it directly above the sweet letter of condolences to Robin Walz and his family, which undoubtedly was read by his young son and daughter. I am very disappointed at

the level the Whalesong sank down to in order to make a few easy bucks. In the future, please remember that the community reads the Whalesong and regards what is printed as representative of the university as a whole. Do we really want Southeast Alaska to think UAS is vulgar and obscene? I certainly hope not, but that poem indicated otherwise.

Amber Timothy

Editor's Note: The following letter was originally sent to President Hamilton. After he received no response, the author requested the letter be printed here, in full.

Dear President Hamilton:

This brief note is to alert you to an act of environmental destruction carried out under the authority of two of your UAS administrators, Chancellor John Pugh and Facilities Director Keith Gerken.

During or shortly after the Christmas holidays, on their orders, a sizable stretch of pristine upland forest was laid waste, the area concerned extending from the northeast edge of the wetlands/bog immediately back of Auke Bay School all the way to a point rather high

up on the long winding path to the University dormitory area.

This act of official vandalism is apparently connected in some way with the proposed UAS/Army National Guard Joint Use Facility. Why it was done where it was done (placing the invaluable natural habitat immediately back of Auke Bay School in serious jeopardy) and why it was done so destructively, so

continued on page 5

Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jyw@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourt Bldg.

Could you puh-leeze learn how to speak?! Like, ya know?

Margo Adler
Tulane Hullabaloo

Before you read this article, put down your paper, walk out into the hallway of your dorm and count the number of 'likes,' 'ya knows' and 'whatevers' you hear in one minute. I'm confident that unless you live on a hall with mutes, non-English speakers or headless horsemen, your one-minute tally will attest to the bitching that is to follow.

But before I begin ranting, I think it's only fair to offer some explanation for what I've heard termed the "verbal diarrhea epidemic."

Many linguists have studied in depth the speech patterns of men and women and have often found that women tend to exhibit insecurity in their speech. Traditionally, women have been expected to show complacency in speech (as well as in everyday life), and in order to avoid asserting herself, a woman learns to de-emphasize her speech with hedges and confirmation requests. Using

words such as 'perhaps,' 'maybe' and 'like,' and introducing statements with 'I think ...' is called hedging. Confirmation requests, such as 'ya know?' and 'right?', as well as a question-like rise in intonation at the end of a sentence (sometimes called "up-talk"), also indicate a lack of confidence in speech.

But women and insecurity are not solely responsible for our generation's verbal ineptness. Granted, it seems clear that the aforementioned words are usually associated with a female vocabulary. After all, "Valley Girl" speech is named after a group of females in California. And for a while it was trendy to ditzily flip your bleached-blond hair from side to side as you said, "Like... whatEVER!" But what was once a trend is now the norm, and it's really starting to wear on me.

At the beginning of the devocalization of America, it was easy to avoid the hair flippers. And if the myth about this type of speech belonging only to women

was true, then I suppose I could avoid my gender entirely; but it's everyone — males as well as females — and there is no escaping it. The worst part is that I do it, too. Call me a hypocrite if you like, but I consider myself a helpless victim of this new-fangled atrocity

passing itself off as a language. I don't want to speak this way (and in all fairness to myself, I do it as rarely as possible), but how can I avoid picking up the speech patterns of virtually all of my peers?

I don't consider myself the only victim, either. Perhaps we are all victims of the dumbing-down of our society (most recently exemplified by the inauguration of an illiterate president), but no one seems to care. No one seems especially interested in making remotely intelligible conversation, and if our verbally challenged generation can't attribute its problems merely to insecurity and can't just pin them on women, like, what's the deal?

Perhaps it's a combination of laziness, lack of confidence and even the word "like" replacing "um" as a verbal pause, but personally, I think it's just an indication of rampant stupidity and apathy. Communication is important, damn it! If you come off sounding like an idiot, who's going to take you seriously?

In the words of Alicia Silverstone in the ever-emulated movie Clueless, "So, okay, I don't want to be a traitor to my generation and all, but I don't get [it]!" And it's not just the addition of these moronic words that's causing problems. It's also the lack of specificity in speech. The word "thing" may be an essential part of the English vocabulary, but it need not replace every single noun. I am so sick of trying to decipher sentences such as, "I need the, like, stuff cause I gotta go to the thing tonight, ya know?" Oh my gawd, could you just, like, totally shut up?!

What-EVER!

LETTER from page 4

ignorantly, and, as I have been told by a Corps [of Engineers] representative, with total disregard for the stipulations set forth in the permit for soil sampling are questions demanding an answer and the parties responsible brought to account.

Chancellor Pugh and Facilities Director Gerken, supposedly public servants, in this instance failed totally to act in the public interest, whether the University community or the wider community. If, as no doubt you desire, the University is to prove itself a good and responsible neighbor, then it must henceforth comply rigorously with all requirements from the Corps and all other agencies concerned. It must also inform and involve the public throughout the planning process.

My own involvement began in late November or early December when I asked surveyors on the wetlands back of the Auke Bay schoolyard what they were doing. Shortly thereafter I expressed my concerns to Chancellor Pugh and, upon his return from the holidays, to Mr. Gerken. Neither of them indicated any imminent work, citing uncertainty as to funding. Then I saw the appalling and extensive damage.

I would welcome an opportunity to walk the area under threat with you and to show you the damage already done. You'll need rubber boots! Auke Bay has been my family's home for some 45 years!

Sincerely yours,
William Philip Dunn

It's never as easy as it looks: Confessions of a first-time reporter

By Janeen Russell
Whalesong staff

A few weeks ago, when I arrived on campus for my very first class at the University of Alaska Southeast, I was a woman sitting on top of the world.

As I sat down in my journalism class I was so excited I could hardly contain myself. After all the other classes I had dropped out of or failed, I thought "this is it." I have finally found my calling. I have finally found something I can do. I have finally found something I won't get bored with.

Why hadn't I thought of this before? It will be so easy — and fun at the same time. All I have to do is write and maybe interview a few people. No more mathematical formulas, no more theories, and best of all, no more pressure. Besides, it's fun to dink around on the computer.

Well, as often happens to people with my personality type, the excitement waned and gave way to an immobilizing depression, when I found there was a problem with all this — I had nothing to say. For hours during the week I sat staring at my computer waiting for inspiration to come. Sometimes I would get up and pace or hold my head and rock back and forth. Sometimes I just stared out the window. It was like my brain was frozen and just wouldn't work.

So I got this idea about writing about not having anything to write about. I know it's not an original idea but I thought if it worked for Jerry Seinfeld, it could work for me. If he can do a television show about nothing, then why can't I do a news story about nothing? At least I'm writing. At least I can walk into the classroom and turn in an assignment.

I was so obnoxiously sure of myself last week. I was going to interview a long-time campus professor and even asked for a second assignment so I wouldn't run out of work. But instead I'm doing a story about nothing.

I feel a little guilty about all this but I'm hoping the rest of the staff will still welcome me with open arms and perhaps reveal some of their struggles as well. The instructor will give us all the comforting we need and just the right tips to make writing for a newspaper a breeze. Afterwards, we'll end with a big group hug — OK, probably not.

I'm beginning to realize that writing is probably a lot like everything else in life. It takes discipline, hard work, patience, focus, and a lot of commitment. I'm really going to try hard not to run this time. I'm going to try to stay put, endure, and perhaps someday even reap the benefits. Do I have it in me? We'll see. After all, this will have to be my last story about nothing.

FEATURES

Winterfest activities abound at UAS

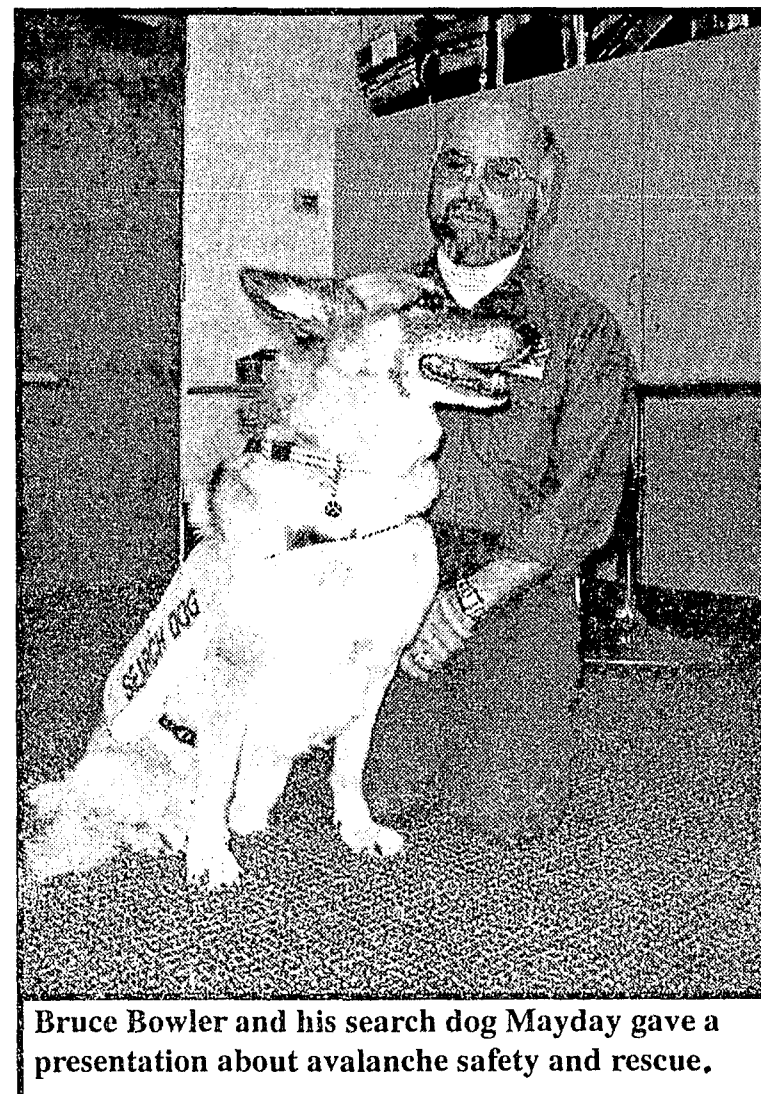
All photos
by Scott
Foster



More than 600 people from UAS and the community attended the Banff film festival, which kicked off Winterfest 2001. The proceeds from the event go to student government.



Fire and Ice...the traditional Winterfest bonfire warmed students up while they ate free ice cream. In the fire a 2001 "statue" burns.



Bruce Bowler and his search dog Mayday gave a presentation about avalanche safety and rescue.

More pictures on page 8

DR. MONTEITH continued from page 1

classes were taught by world-class anthropology professors and not by graduate students. "Dr. Raymond D. Fogelson was a major influence in my choice to study anthropology," stated Monteith. One of Dr. Fogelson's strengths was in North American Indian studies, from whom Monteith learned a great deal. Dr. George W. Stocking was also instrumental in his education. "He taught me my first course in anthropology at UC and has written many major books on the subject as a respected expert in the field," he added. While at Michigan State, Monteith was hired as the assistant ombudsman. "This position helped students deal with any university-related problem they were having," he said.

Monteith began teaching at UAS' Ketchikan campus by invitation of Dr. Priscilla Schulte. He had been working with the U.S. Forest Service as an archeologist and also worked with the Tongass tribe on a Federal Acknowledgment grant, which the tribe received. At the Ketchikan campus he taught as an adjunct faculty member until moving to the Juneau campus. The Dean of Faculty at



Dr. Monteith speaks to a student about his anthropological adventures.

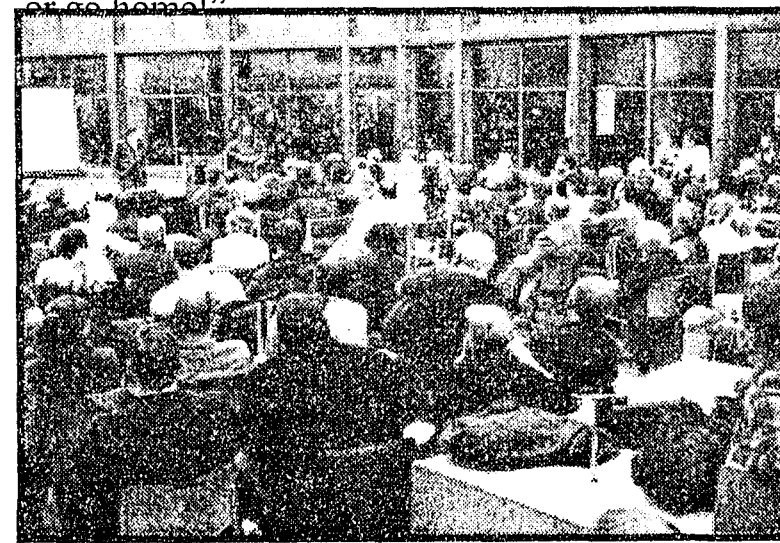
UAS, Mary Lou Madden, asked Monteith to fill in for Tom Thornton, who left on a leave of absence. "I would like to stay in the UAS system," stated Monteith. One major reason for wanting to stay at UAS is the faculty to student ratio. He also added, "I feel that I can make a bigger difference with the students; this is very rewarding for me personally." He would like to stay in Juneau because of the different teaching opportunities that are afforded him here in the anthropology department. "While in high school I took several anthropology classes at the University of Washington," which Monteith said greatly sparked his interest in the field. He had the opportunity to work on the Ozette archeological site in Washington on the Olympic Peninsula near the Makah Reservation, which has been in recent news regarding their whale hunting.

Sailing is one of Monteith's favorite hobbies. He also enjoys kayaking whenever possible. Rock climbing is also a favorite pastime, which got him started on caving. As far as the weather goes, Monteith says, "I love the snow, as compared to Ketchikan where

there is no snow on the mountain tops."

He gets a chuckle out of a lot of the archeological movies, like *Indiana Jones*. "I have long since hung up my whip and revolver," he joked. Some of the craziest activities that Monteith has enjoyed are hang gliding, rappelling, climbing, and handling the rough seas in Bristol Bay. Monteith has seined near Sitka on a 34-foot boat, dropping net at a depth of about 3 feet deep.

Some interesting sites Dr. Monteith would recommend are the American Anthropology Association site at www.ameranthassn.org, and for Alaskan anthropology, the Arctic Circle site done by the University of Connecticut at www.arcticcircle.uconn.edu. Another site of possible interest is www.gorp.com, it offers useful and easy-to-use information on caving; "go gorp or go home!"



Dr. Monteith gave a presentation as part of the Egan Library "Friday night at Egan" series. The crowd was one of the series' largest.

Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions of art, photography, written work, and personal experiences are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste, and must include a name and means of contact for verification. If the submission is to be returned, please include an address and daytime phone number. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jywhale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

Website adds to naked newscast

Megan Mitchell
The Badger Herald

A glimpse at the headlines is not the only thing available on a Toronto, Canada-based Internet news website, whose web address is appropriately www.nakednews.com.

The news service is a little over a year old and is in the process of hiring more people to join its team. Auditions were held last week for attractive men and women over the age of 18 who will not mind reading news stories in the buff in front of the site's millions of visitors.

University of Wisconsin agricultural journalism professor Albert Gunther said he thinks the site is largely an attention-getting ploy. "It's more of a 'Saturday Night Live' type of thing," he said.

Although NakedNews may be looking for attention, their site will literally be "presented uncensored and without bias," according to infor-

mation written on the webpage. Bias, one important element that is fervently omitted by many news outlets, is one aspect of reporting that, when removed, adds to the professionalism of a news production.

One requirement of a reputable news outlet that was interestingly left out of the NakedNews job listing is a background in journalism, and according to some, this will also not add to the establishment of a reputable news service.

"I can't even look at this as a legitimate news venue," said Patricia Hastings, a lecturer in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. She went on to say that the site is far from the professionalism most journalists strive for.

"A journalist has to be involved and care about the craft," Hastings said. "I don't know what [the NakedNews site] has to do with journalism. It goes against everything that a credible journalist would believe in."

Hastings, however, is not far from shocked that something like this has been put on the Internet. "The Internet is so uncharted, there is so much out there," she said. "There is nothing that appears on websites that surprises me."

Untraditional news outlets make up a large part of the news market, but their importance has been understated.

While Gunther is not advocating a race of credibility between The New York Times and the National Enquirer, he does say the Enquirer, for all of the faulty headlines it produces, reveals a few gems that go unnoticed by more traditional news. "The National Enquirer has been a source of little credibility for 25 years," Gunther said. "They have, however, broken some significant stories."

For example, the Enquirer recently broke a significant news story involving Hilary Rodham Clinton's brother and allegations of shady financial dealings.

Although skepticism about Internet journalism like the NakedNews site abounds, an untraditional Internet news venue broke the most infamous scandal in recent presidential history.

"The Matt Drudge Report was a struggling Internet news site," said Gunther. "He came up with the Monica Lewinsky story."

Women's

MARCH MONTH

FOR MORE INFO:
Alexis Easley (465-6415)
Shelley Theno (465-6403)
Annette Nelson-Wright (790-4456)
Tia Anderson (465-6528)

All activities are free and will be held on the UAS Auke Lake Campus unless otherwise noted.

MON., MARCH 19, 12:00-1:30 P.M.
Women's Health Forum
UAS Lake Room. Katy Goodwin and Michael Powell.
Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood.

WED., MARCH 21, 12:00-1:30 P.M.
Women and Technology: The Basics and Beyond.
UAS Lake Room. Susan Warner, Tia Anderson, and Mona Yarnall.

FRI., MARCH 23, 12:00-1:30 P.M.
The Devil's Gateway: A History of Women and Christianity
UAS Lake Room. Carol Holbert. Lecture.

FRI., MARCH 23, 7:00-9:00 P.M.
Breaking Ground in the Wilderness: Mary Baker Eddy, Pioneer in Spiritual Discovery
UAS Egan Library. Joni Overton-Jung. Lecture.
Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910), the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, is widely recognized as one of the most remarkable religious figures of modern times.

TUE., MARCH 20, 7:00-9:00 P.M.
Magdalen Hsu-Li Concert
UAS Student Activities Center. Free for Student Activities Center members; \$5 for non-SAC members.

THUR., MARCH 22, 12:00-1:30 P.M.
Men's Perspectives on the Women's Movement
UAS Lake Room. Robin Walz, Jonathan Anderson, Don Cecil, Mike Maas. Panel discussion.

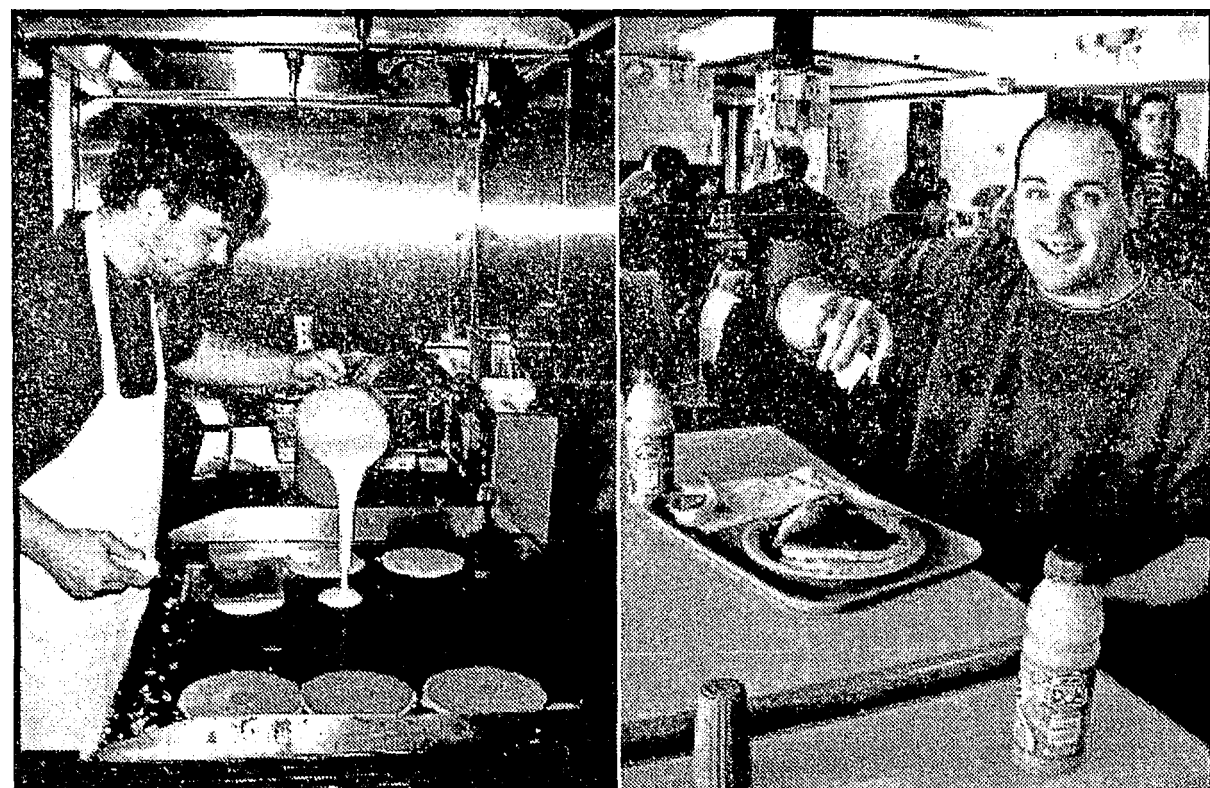
THUR., MARCH 22, 7:00-9:00 P.M.
Joy Harjo Poetry Reading/Lecture
Free for students; pay as you can for the general public. UAS Egan Library.

MON., MARCH 5, 12:00-1:30 P.M.
From the Radical Reformation to Radical Feminism: Women in Religion in America
UAS Lake Room. Michael Price.

WED., MARCH 7, 12:00-1:30 P.M.
A Celebration of Women Writers
UAS Lake Room. Dr. Alexis Easley, Chair. Student and Faculty panel presentation.
"My mother knew that books would lead me astray and the way right." Jeanette Winterson

THUR., MARCH 8, 12:00-2:00 P.M.
Women's Lunch Special
UAS Mourant Cafeteria. Since nationwide women receive only 72 cents for every dollar earned by men, today women will receive a 28% discount on lunch at the cafeteria!

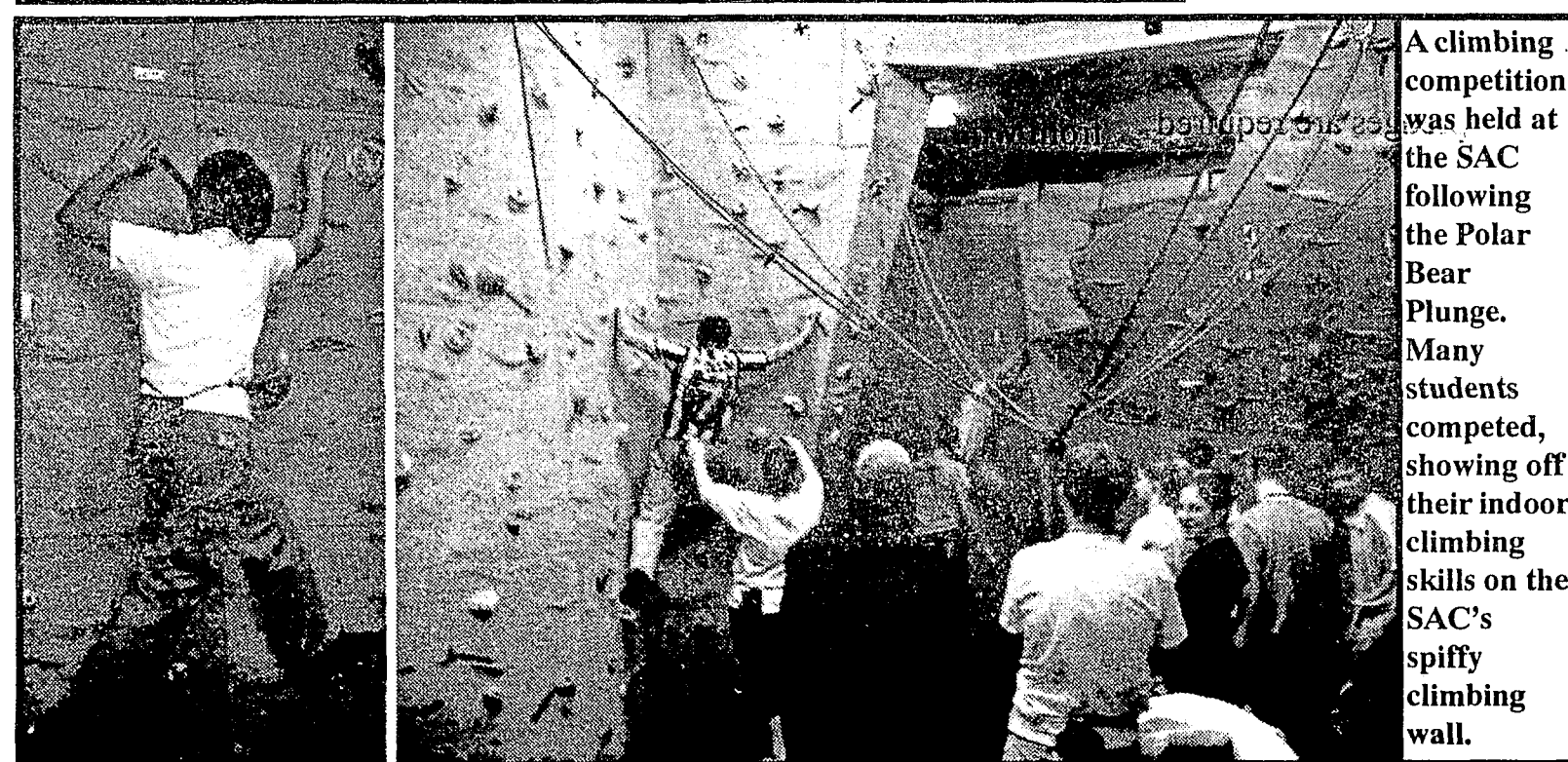
THUR., MARCH 8, 4:30-6:30 P.M.
International Women's Day Celebration
Silverbow Backroom Restaurant.



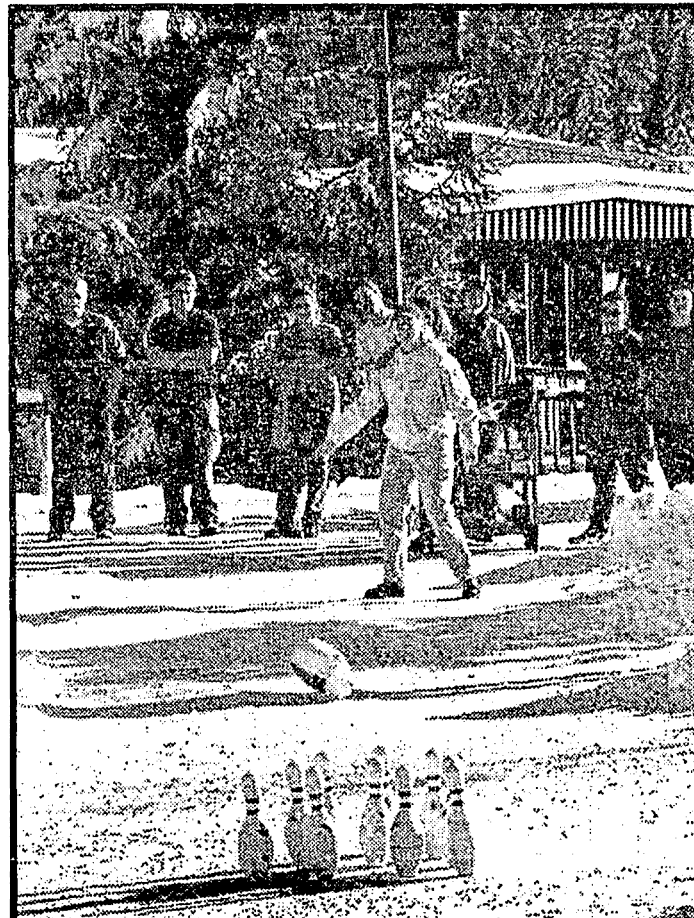
Students and Juneauites enjoyed an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, prepared by expert pancake makers, in the cafeteria.



Computer Services Director Mike Ciri's face shows the effects of the cold water on a jumper.



A climbing competition was held at the SAC following the Polar Bear Plunge. Many students competed, showing off their indoor climbing skills on the SAC's spiffy climbing wall.



After a pancake breakfast, students enjoyed a round of turkey bowling in the courtyard.

The Whalesong

is running a short story contest.

• Stories should be 2-4 pages double-spaced.

• All stories will be read by the staff and advisor of the Whalesong class. The winner will be chosen by a unanimous vote.

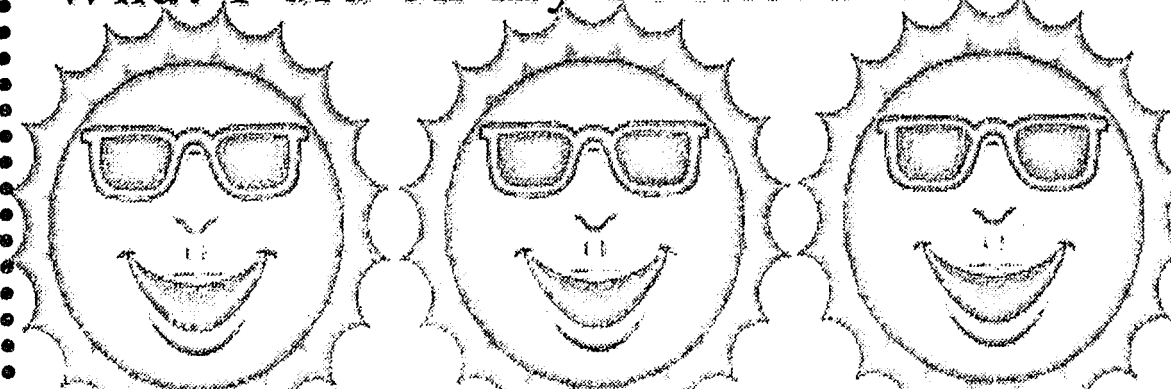
• Stories should be turned in by March 29th or they will not be entered in the contest.

• Submit stories with name (first and last) to the Whalesong office, fax it to us at 465-6399 or e-mail it to us at: jywhale@uas.alaska.edu

The winner will receive a UAS Sweatshirt (on display in the Whalesong office window) and your story and picture will run in the April 3rd edition of the Whalesong.

The short story theme is:

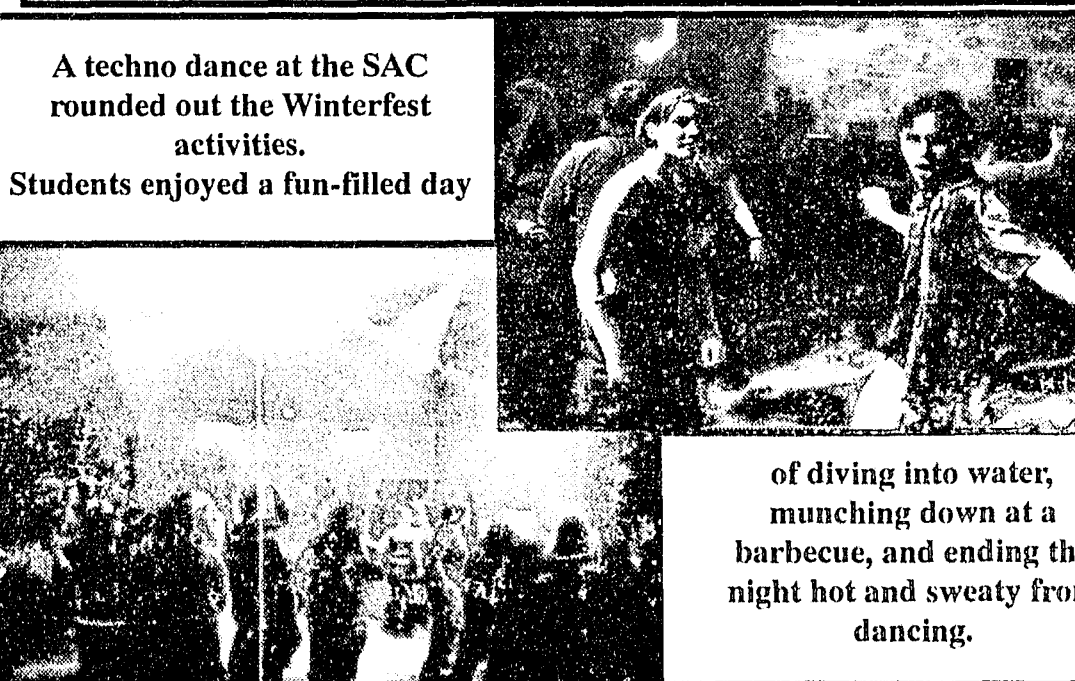
"What I did on my SPRING BREAK."



Call us at 465-6434 or stop by our office, room 102 in the Mourant Building if you have any questions.



44 people took the Polar Bear Plunge challenge, diving into 39 F degree water. "Utah" Yuchisato jumped 5 times, a new UAS record.



A techno dance at the SAC rounded out the Winterfest activities. Students enjoyed a fun-filled day

of diving into water, munching down at a barbecue, and ending the night hot and sweaty from dancing.

Bill would require Texas college students to volunteer

Crystal Yednak
Knight Ridder Tribune

AUSTIN, Texas - College students in Texas could be lining up to serve soup to the homeless, to crusade for the disenfranchised or to coach children at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

A bill that the state House Higher Education Committee approved this week would require all students at state universities to do 28 hours of unpaid public service in one semester to earn their diploma.

Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, said he drew up the proposal because he believes that students should leave college with a better sense of citizenship and community spirit. And lessons learned from giving to the community can't be taught in a classroom, he said.

The committee sent HB 791 to the House on Tuesday with a favorable recommendation. But some students and legislators said volunteerism has to be just that, voluntary. "You can't force people to be socially conscious," said Blythe Winbush, 22, a student at the University of Texas at Austin.

UT sophomore Larry Chauvin, 19, said many student organizations already require community service. In his fraternity, pledges are required to complete 40 hours, he said, and active members 12 hours a semester. "Forcing people may make them less eager to do it and may create tension," Chauvin said Wednesday while passing out fliers encouraging students to vote.

Nationally, some private high schools and universities have started requiring public service.

The bill would require students to complete the community service

under the supervision of a nonprofit organization, government entity or other group that benefits "needy or deserving individuals or the public." Each university would monitor and coordinate the program through a public service office. The requirement would apply to students who enroll after Sept. 1. The bill would let students choose where to volunteer.

"If a student doesn't agree with the ACLU, that student doesn't volunteer for the ACLU. If a student doesn't agree with the Conservative Coalition, then that student doesn't volunteer for the Conservative Coalition," Gallego said.

Committee members who heard testimony on the bill Tuesday raised concerns that some students who work their way through college may not have time to meet an extra requirement.

UT-Austin student Lacy Thibodeaux, 21, said it would be hard for her because she works and is married. "Even though it would be really beneficial to the community, it would be hard to fit into my schedule," she said.

Rep. D.R. "Tom" Uher, D-Bay City, said volunteerism should come from within a person. "You do this on your own initiative; you don't do it because the state of Texas with its police powers says you will do this," said Uher, who voted against sending the bill to the House. The six other members at the hearing voted for it.

In Texas, with thousands of college students contributing community service, "you could rebuild a city," Gallego said. "To me, we all have a debt to the community that formed us," he said.

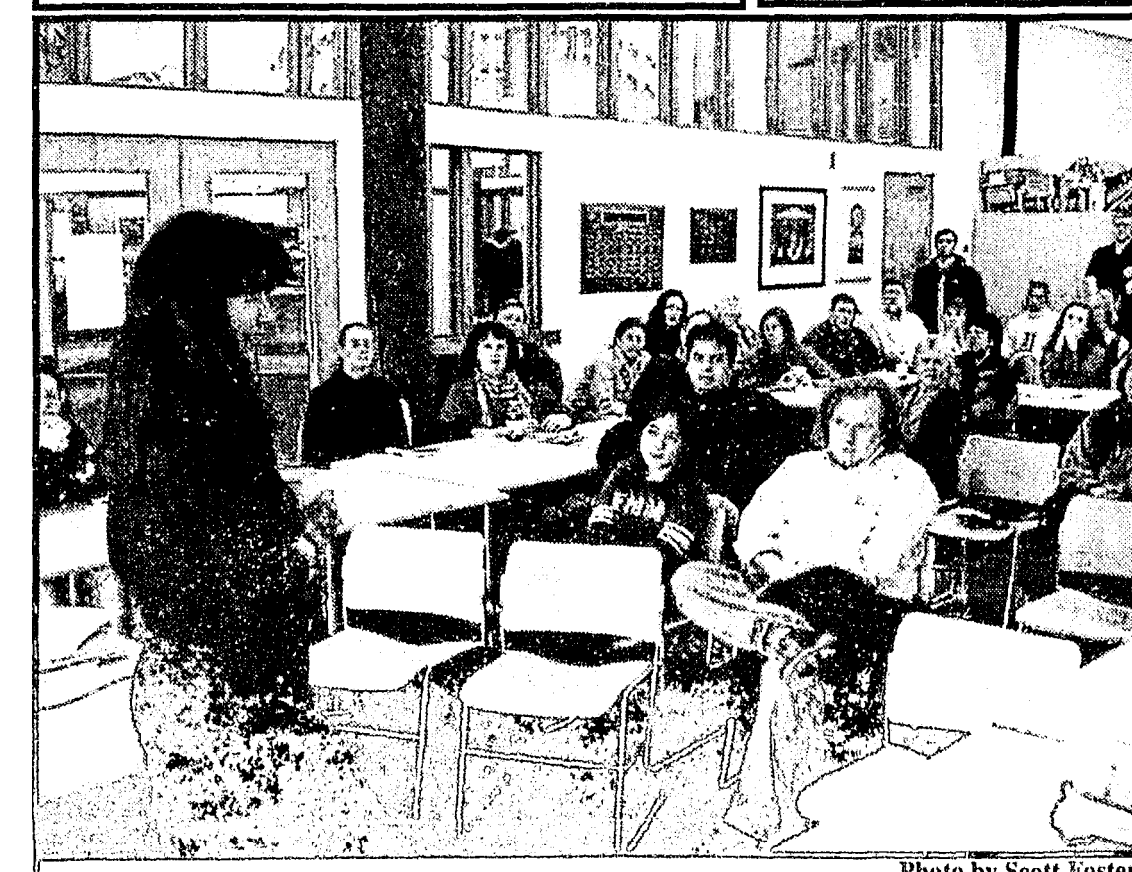


Joy Harjo answers questions about her work and poetry

Award-winning writer Joy Harjo spoke in Juneau on Friday, March 2. She conducted a lunchtime Q & A, then in the evening presented a poetry reading and lecture.

Both events were well attended and enjoyed by the university and the community.

Harjo's contributions were the first of many events taking place at UAS and in Juneau in honor of Women's History Month.



Poet Joy Harjo talks with an audience in UAS' Lake Room. Harjo is a long-time author and also plays the saxophone.

Culinary Arts & Hospitality



The Culinary Arts and Hospitality program at the University of Alaska Anchorage now offers:

- Bachelor of Arts in Hospitality and Restaurant Management
- Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts
- Certificate in Dietary Management

The Bachelor's Degree includes students attending two semesters at the University of Nevada Las Vegas or Northern Arizona University - two of America's top ten Hotel/Restaurant Schools. Make your career in Alaska's hospitality industry happen at UAA!

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www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctc

University of Alaska Anchorage

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UAA is an EO/AA employer and educational institution.

Sports

Quick Picks

UAA Seawolves claimed the Alaska Airlines Governor's Cup in hockey with a 3-1 win over UAF

Registration is starting for the Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon, which is held in Anchorage. See www.muni.org/parks/mayor.cfm for info

U.S. lost 2-1 to the world's top-ranked Brazil in soccer's Rose Bowl

Great Britain's Greg Rusedski upended top-seeded Andre Agassi to win his 10th career title at the Sybase Open

U.S. could grab record in Salt Lake City

Phillip Hersh
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO - The last time the Winter Olympics were in the United States, at Lake Placid in 1980, the home team had its best performance in a post-World War II Winter Games with six gold and 12 total medals.

Only in 1994 and 1998, when an expanded Olympic program created 69 and then 90 more available medals than there had been in 1980, has the U.S. team won more medals (13, both times) in a Winter Olympics.

With most of this pre-Olympic winter sports season nearing completion, the time has come to gaze into some snow-and-ice crystals at U.S. medal hopes in 2002 at Salt Lake City:

Figure skating: Only three-time world champion Michelle Kwan is a favorite for a medal. Whether she is the gold favorite will be determined by her battle with Russia's Irina Slutskaya at the world meet later this month. A U.S. man could win a bronze. Don't be surprised if the U.S. team wins no golds for the first time since 1980.

Speed skating: Sprinter Chris Witty, who won silver and bronze in 1998, has been inconsistent the past two years but remains a threat. Casey FitzRandolph (sprints) and Jennifer Rodriguez

(middle distance) also are potential medalists.

Short track could produce the biggest U.S. hero in Apolo Anton Ohno, who dominated this World Cup season and could win three individual golds and a relay medal.

Hockey: U.S. women will win at least a silver, and the men could get anything from gold to no medal.

Nordic skiing: Nordic combined skier Todd Lodwick had a subpar worlds but traditionally has raced well in the U.S. Likely medals: zero.

Freestyle skiing: World Cup results in this judged sport clearly show a home-athlete bias. Evan Dybvig, Olympic champ Jonny Moseley and Hannah Hardaway (moguls) all have won World Cup medals this season, as have aerialists Joe Pack and Eric Bergoust. Count on at least two medals.

Mike Tyson says he's ready to fight, doesn't eat kids

Bernard Fernandez
Knight Ridder Tribune

LAS VEGAS - Claiming to be more at peace with himself than at any time during his turbulent career, two-time former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson declared himself fit, focused and eager to fight.

"I'm not going to box until I drop," Tyson said Thursday. "I'm going to box until I almost drop."

Tyson, 34, was remarkably relaxed and charming during an informal hour-long session with some old media antagonists he had invited to his palatial home.

He had declared after his most recent bout, which ended in controversy when battered opponent Andrew Golota quit after two rounds on Oct. 20, that he was retiring from boxing. "I didn't feel like I was accomplishing anything," Tyson said of that announcement, which no one really believed anyway. "The only thing I was accomplishing was making (ring) appearances. But I didn't want that. I wanted to be more than a freak show."

"I needed to take a deep look inside myself . . . to check out my whole barometer, what I wanted to do with my life. It's not like I wanted to do anything else but fight. I just needed to take some of the pressure off myself."

Last year, Tyson again found himself in the headlines for all the wrong reasons when he declared he wanted "to eat" WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis' children and allegedly punched out

British promoter Frank Warren in a dispute over some expensive jewelry. He said his newfound contentment is the result of "my personal life finally being back together."

"Lennox Lewis doesn't have any children," Tyson said. "I knew that." Someone asked if Tyson's comments were "street talk." "Nobody's on the streets talking about eating somebody's children," Tyson said, smiling. "That's Jeffrey Dahmer, man. You think I'm Jeffrey Dahmer? I don't mean to hurt people's feelings. It wasn't done with malice." Tommy Brooks, Tyson's trainer, said Tyson was "being a salesman." "He's just building up the show, that's all," he said.

The question for now is, what's the next act in boxing's wildest, most unpredictable circus?

Tyson's adviser, Shelly Finkel, said he was in negotiations to put Tyson (48-3, 42 KOs) into a March 19 bout with David Izon (27-3, 23 KOs) at an undisclosed site, but those plans were subject to change. "A lot depends on what happens (Saturday) night," Finkel said. "The winner might fight Mike next." That was a reference to the WBA title bout between champion Evander Holyfield (37-4-1, 25 KOs), a two-time Tyson conqueror, and John Ruiz (36-4, 27 KOs), at the Mandalay Bay. "We certainly would have to look at that possibility, particularly if Holyfield wins," Finkel said. "(Holyfield-Tyson III) is a big fight. It's not as big as Tyson-Lewis, but it's a big fight."

"Look, everybody wants to be The Man. We all do as fighters. That our egos. But I'm The Man. That's just the way it is."

Snowboard: This crowd should produce at least one medal, although the best U.S. finish at the 2001 worlds was fourth by Sondra Van Ert in giant slalom.

Alpine skiing: Despite a vastly improved performance by the U.S. team this winter, during which seven athletes have made World Cup podiums and Daron Rahlves won the world title in Super-G., no U.S. skier can be considered a medal favorite. Rahlves, Kirsten Clark, Megan Gerety and the recovering Picabo Street all look like contenders in the speed events, and Kristina Koznick is a potential slalom medalist. A U.S. record-tying five medals in the 10 alpine events would not be a surprise, but neither would no medals.

Biathlon: U.S. athletes rarely make the top 30 in World Cup races, although Jeremy Teela was ninth in the sprint event at worlds. No medal hopes.

Bobsled: The Utah track is so easy the U.S. gets no "local knowledge" advantage, nor will it get its first men's medal since 1956. The U.S. women are a lock for one medal, with Jean Racine and Jean Davidson favored for gold in the Olympic debut of women's bobsled.

Luge: The U.S. lugers won their first Olympic medals in 1998. Bronze medalists Mark Grimmette and Brian Martin are contenders again, as is 1998 silver medalist Chris Thorpe with new partner Clay Ives.

Skeleton: World bronze medalist Lincoln DeWitt and fourth finisher Jim Shea both are solid medal contenders in the men's event, as is world bronze medalist Tricia Stumpf in the women's.

Curling: The U.S. men and women both have medal hopes, although neither would be considered a medal favorite.

Overall: Best-case scenario for the U.S. would be records of 12 gold and 27 total medals. Worst-case scenario would be two gold (one for Ohno, one in women's bobsled) and nine total medals. Our prediction: six gold (Ohno two, women's bob, women's hockey, Rahlves and Kwan) and 14 total medals.

Entertainment

Horoscopes

Capricorn (December 21-January 20) Relationships from the past will now begin to make sense. Watch for intense dreams, key adjustments in present relationships and a newfound bond with loved ones.

Aquarius (January 21-February 19) Let others handle their own problems this month. A new social and romantic era arrives. Trust your instincts, long-standing differences will not easily fade.

Pisces (February 20-March 20) Over the next 3 weeks many Pisceans may feel pressured to adopt the role of instructor. Expect others to accept your input and then quickly ignore your efforts. Offer support but protect your own ideas.

Aries (March 21-April 20) A friend or relative may ask for detailed explanations of yesterday's relationships and social promises. Don't shy away from difficult questions. Avoid new debts and large purchases.

Taurus (April 21-May 20) New social plans bring increased physical and emotional energy. Some Taurians may encounter a series of workplace flirtations or inappropriate attractions. New romantic proposals should be carefully considered.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Work routines or daily habits may now need revision. Authority figures will push for fast results. Your emotional input and social insight are unusually accurate this month.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Try to avoid boastful moments this week, others may not be receptive to proud displays. Let others have extra time to reflect or gather insight. Attend to parent/child relationships.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Watch for loved ones to be overly focused on past disappointments and distant relationships. Some Leos experience the return of an old friend or colleague. Watch for fast financial changes or newly-amended records.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) Romantic energy is high and confusing this month. A temporary division of loyalties may be bothersome but difficult to avoid. Watch for brief social conflicts and inappropriate flirtations.

Libra (September 23-October 23) Unfinished emotions, nostalgia and incomplete relationships will have a tendency to resurface over the next few weeks. Use this time to release unwanted fears or address long standing differences with loved ones.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22) For the next 10 work days facts and figures can easily be mistaken or lost. Intense romantic flirtations now cause an ongoing distraction. New attractions will bring unusual romantic choices before early April.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 20) Many Sagittarians have felt restricted by the emotional demands of another or frustrated by lack of time for personal relationships. All of this now changes. Expect new group instructions and rare social introductions.



Preview

Thursday, 8 - Women, don't forget to cash in on payroll inequity, and get your lunch for 28% less than guys pay!

Monday, 12 - Friday 16 - Spring Break!!! Take it easy, go outside, watch day-time T.V., lie around, do your overdue homework, visit someplace exotic, do something, do nothing...your choice!!

Saturday, 17 - Now that you've spent a week or so doing absolutely nothing, get off your ass and get a job!!

Juneau Job Center, Local Job Center Advisory Committee, and Workstar are sponsoring a job fair at the Nugget Mall from 11-3.

Weekend, 17 & 18 - "2001 a home odyssey" touches down at Centennial Hall 9-6 on Saturday and 9-5 on Sunday. The home show claims to "Go where no man has gone before - Home: The Final Frontier." Lots of booths, prizes, and stuff. Tickets are \$5, or \$20 with a tour of homes.

Monday, 19 - Grace Elliott will be sharing solstice stories and other fun stuff as part of the JAHC Literary Reading Series. Come listen at The Back Room, starting at 7 p.m.

Hollywood Low-down

George Rush and Joanna Molloy
Tribune Media Services

RICKY MARTIN HITS THE BIG SCREEN

Ricky Martin may soon bring his bon-bons to the big screen. The pop star is close to signing to play a revolutionary in the political thriller "The Assassination." It's a daring bit of casting. Until now, the former member of Menudo has acted only on "General Hospital" and Spanish soap operas. But now he's in final talks to star as a Che-like rebel bent on toppling Dominican strongman Rafael Trujillo, who was assassinated in 1961. Loca-livin' Ricky will also perform the title song for the film. Hey, even Fidel didn't deliver his own soundtrack.

Due to play Trujillo is Anthony Quinn. James Coburn is on board as U.S. ambassador. Oscar nominee Ed Harris is in talks to play a CIA operative who promises Martin's character weapons and support.

Director George Romero ("Day of the Dead") plans to start shooting the Highland Pictures release in April.

J.LO LINGERS, DOESN'T LIKE IT

Jennifer Lopez has gotten a little more northern exposure than she wanted. Canadian Mounties detained the singer and her entourage at Toronto's airport on Feb. 11 after customs officers discovered pot and hashish on one of her bodyguards. Dogs discovered the drugs stashed in the guard's socks, but the security guy wasn't busted. "It's up to an officer's discretion on whether to lay charges," said Canadian police spokesman Larry Foy. "It was a very small amount."

Lopez, who was held up for an hour, was "cooperative," said Foy. But we hear the recently hired bodyguard has been fired. After getting mixed up in the court case of ex-boyfriend Sean (Puffy) Combs, Lopez needs cop problems like an extra inch on her derriere.

Speaking of J.Lo, London's News of the World got a hold of a photo of her locking lips with her dancer Cris Judd, said to be her new man. The full-on kiss looks more than collegial.

JACKO'S MISSING MASTERS?

Michael Jackson's new CD is already causing a stir in the upper suites at Sony Music. According to an insider, Sony execs recently asked to preview Jacko's long-aborning album — only to find that the master recordings were missing. "They called Michael's people and they couldn't find them," says the source. "Everybody was freaking out because they've spent millions on this thing. Finally somebody found the tracks at the office of [record exec] John McClain, who had been hanging onto them because he thinks the album should have more of a hip-hop sound."

Word is Sony brass have told Jackson to keep buffing the CD. A spokesman for the label denied the masters were missing. "Michael Jackson is working in studio successfully," said the mouthpiece. "He will finish the album shortly."

QUITE (THE BODY) OF WORK

Lawmakers in Minnesota want to end Goy Jesse (The Body) Ventura's moonlighting as a weekend XFL commentator on NBC. On Monday, a state House panel endorsed a proposal to curtail such activities beginning in 2003, when Ventura's term ends. Ventura has argued that he does his various side-jobs when he's off-duty.

Meanwhile, the Broadway musical based on Ventura's life is still a go. Producer Pierre Cossette has tapped Stephen Dolginoff to write the book and hard-rocking music for the show, which we hear will have a dramatic scene where The Body resolves to go into politics because pro wrestling has left blood clots on his lungs. Ewww!

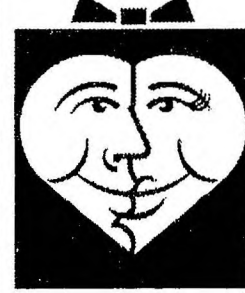
Choreography will feature dancing grapplers, Navy SEALs and politicians. Cossette plans to have celebrity guests in ring scenes. He did something similar with his Tony-winning musical "The Will Rogers Follies."

ITEMIZING

Michael Douglas, Harrison Ford, Liam Neeson, Danny DeVito and Robin Williams gave a Toronto lady named Kathy Thomas a birthday she won't forget. The stars were dining at Sotto Sotto at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto the other night when they heard Thomas was celebrating her 50th. All of them, except Ford, came over to give her a kiss. Williams even came up with some shtick. ...

Sean Connery is campaigning from his home in the Bahamas for Scottish independence. The actor tells the London Telegraph that British-owned media in his homeland "attempt to assassinate my character in Scotland when I'm there, so my position is much more effective if I'm outside Scotland."

Dr. Love and Deb Auchery



Dear Doc and Deb:

This guy quit returning my phone calls; I really like him but I do not know where we stand.

Doc Says:

It probably means he is no longer interested but it would probably be better to hear it come out of his mouth so you know for sure. Because for all you know he could be out of the state. Or maybe he got in a car accident. If he is not interested though do not waste too much of your time on him.

Deb Says:

Does he have an answering machine? Or are people taking messages from you? If he has an answering machine leave him a message that says something like, "If you don't want to talk to me please call and let me know because I don't know if you are trying to avoid me or if you are not getting my messages." If other people were taking the messages from you I would talk to him in person. Ask him if he is getting your messages and then ask him where the two of you stand. Pay attention to his reaction both verbally and physically and you should be able to figure things out, but don't let the fact that you like him blind you. He may not feel the same way and you have to be able to accept that.

Dear Doc and Deb:

My boyfriend is in Mexico, and I don't care.

Doc Says:

I guess you need to rethink your relationship and what you want out of it.

But if you feel like that I bet your boyfriend is feeling the same thing.

Deb Says:

That's nice. I don't care either.

Dear Doc and Deb:

I am gay but I have been hanging out with this girl and am really attracted to her. I have never considered myself bi or even close to straight but now I am questioning myself. HELP?

Doc Says:

Go on letting everyone think you're gay. You need to do some soul searching and figure out what you want.

Deb Says:

How are you attracted to her? Mentally? Physically? Sexually? Emotionally? If you can say yes to all of the above, then I think you should look into some things within yourself. Do you think she feels the same way? Perhaps you need to do some experimenting, but remember to be true to yourself and be sensitive and considerate of those that may become involved. You could approach her and see if she would be willing to help you figure some things out. If you go about it in the right way, even if you discover that you are in fact not attracted to her in "that way," you could strengthen the friendship. This is a potentially volatile situation so please BE AWARE of the fact that she may not want to indulge in assisting you. If this is the case, another thing you could do is go and talk to people you trust that may have some insight into your dilemma, other gay friends for example. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance is also accessible here in Juneau and your adviser should be able to direct you to them as well as some other sources that may facilitate you. Good luck!

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